المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

16 March 1983

Mr Thomas Hammarberg
Amnesty International
10 Southampton Street
London WC2

Dear Mr Hammarberg,

Further to my letter to you of 14 December 1982, on the political trials in Egypt, I was very pleased to see Amnesty International's report on the violations of human rights in that country. We obtained several copies from you and sent them to interested parties in Egypt.

I should be grateful if you would refer back to our previous correspondence concerning Dr Necmettin Erbakan, the leader of the National Salvation Party in Turkey. You will know that he, and many of his colleagues, have recently been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, in Dr Erbakan's case four years. This is a further sad example of the military regime's repressive policies: these sentences have been passed by a military court on persons whose only crimes have been the expression of their beliefs and convictions.

We have sent you copies of the press releases we have recently issued referring to this matter. In addition, we have written to the Council of Europe, and Lord Avebury, Chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, has asked the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva to take whatever positive action they can, which they have promised to do. Ahmed Ben Bella and I have also sent personal cables to General Evren appealing to him to rescind these sentences and to acknowledge the right of everyone to basic human rights and the freedom of expression.

I should very much like you to consider adding the voice of Amnesty International, an organisation which commands a very wide basis of respect throughout the world, to this just cause, and to take whatever steps you can to urge for the release of these prisoners of conscience.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

16 Grosvenor Crescent London SW1 7EP Telephone 01-235 9832 Telex 894240 Islami G Cables ISLAMIAH